HORRIBLE CALAMITY.

Fatal Fire in the Brooklyn Home for the Aged.

NINETEEN LIVES LOST.

Heartrending Scenes of Terror and Confusion.

TWO MEN DASHED TO DEATH.

Heroic Efforts of the Neighbors to Save Life.

Groans of the Dying Amid Smoke and Flame.

A fire occurred yesterday morning in Breoklyn which caused the death of nineteen persons by suffocation and flame, the building damaged being the "Home for the Aged in Charge of the Little Sisters of the Poor, on Bushwick Boulevard, between Chestnut and Stockholm streets, near the junction of De Kalb avenue The details of the terrible disaster are borrid in outline and the scenes witnessed at the time of the fire were heartrending and appalling. Most of the persons who lost their lives were in indigent circumstances and were helpless old men, ranging from sixty to ninety years of age. The occurrence natu rally created great excitement in the neighborhood, and the institution being a charitable one, the appailing loss of life will awaken a feeling of sympathy among all

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRE. A few minutes after four o'clock A. M. the neighprhood, which is thinly populated, was aroused by an alarm of fire, and as the people rushed from their doors they found the large three story brick building occapied by the aged men and women, and fronting on Chestnut street, The remote situation of the editice and the paucity of means for extinguishing fire rendered the neighbors and the occupants powerless to arrest the progress of the flames at the outset, and in a few minutes the entire cast wing, occupied by the males, was enveloped in flames. In this part of the building were seventy-three aged men, and as the fire gained headway shricks and cries arose and terror reigned supreme. Acting with commendable presence of mind, the Little Sisters of the Poor, who manage the institution, aided by the police and a few cool headed citizens who had arrived on the ground, rapidly removed the female portion of the inmates, numbering 115, into the street. At the same time every one of the old men who could be reached was told to follow them. Despite the celerity of this work of rescue the confusion which prevailed on the upper floors of the east wing prevented nineteen men from escaping. One of this number met his death byaterrible leap from an upper window, and the remaining eighteen were suffocated and their bodies charred almost beyond recognition.

The Assistant Mother Superior, Mary of the Aposties, who resides in the frame building apart from the main edifice, noticed shortly before four o'clock that there was a bright light in the basement on the southeast corner of the building, which she knew was unusual, but which did not strike her as being fire for a moment or two, until finding it increase she threw a wrapper around her and made her way to the main building and through the corridor to the east wing, find that the smoke had already excited the fears of the three sisters in charge of the wing. Quickly informing them of the fact that the building was on fire, she directed them to remove the inmates as quickly as possible while she aroused the others, in order to get them all out. The old men, however, on being awakened from their sleep, seemed dazed, and evinced neither disposition to leave nor hurry when the danger seemed imminent, for almost coinci dent with the alarm the flames seemed to burst out, and the heat engendered by it appeared to give it the speed of the wind, for in a moment, by means of the suter staircase, every floor seemed to burst into flame

The cry of fire that was immediately raised had the natural effect to bewilder the unfortunate inmates, and a terrible scene of confusion and horror ensued. The stupefied, and it was with difficulty that the sisters kept them in order. The men being nearer the seat of the fire, were even more confused, and being old or infirm they made no voluntary effort to escape the danger that threatened them. The citizens who, residing in the neighborhood, were the first to arrive gave willing and valuable help in restoring order. Under the direction of Acting Police Captain Dunn and Sergeant Buckholz the neighbors aided the Little Sisters in removing all of the men they could reach into the west wing, where the women were kept in custody and comparative quiet. It was a ter rible scene and, though every heart was appalled by the danger that threatened, the confusion was soon over. Yet there were many of the old men still in the burning part of the building, and, amid the roar and crackle of the flames, their piteous cries could be distinctly heard. The police and a few determined citizens then made renewed efforts to reach those who were still in danger, but the fire had already gained such headway that it was impossible to do more than wait in suspense and fear for the

The bright light caused an alarm from the bell tower in the Sixteenth ward, in Ten Eyck street, and in less than ten minutes the Fire Department were on handengines 13, 16, 17 and truck 4 responding. Before they reached the ground, however, the shricks and cries of the inmates, the crackling of the flames and blinding smoke had aroused the neighbors in the vicinity, and they hurried to give what assistance they could to save the old and decrepit from the terrible fate that awaited them, and many were brought out in the arms of the willing assistants. One Sister carried bodily an old blind man from his room to the female ward, a distance of 150 feet, and many similar instances of superhuman exertion occurred, but the smoke became so dense that further entry into the wing was prevented. One man got out of the third ttory window on the north side to escape the flames and attempted to lower himself to a ladder which reached to the window below. But when he dropped he fell outside of the ladder into the area below, and died almost instantly. The body was taken up and removed to the office, near the gate, where he was recognized by one of the sisters as Michael Cummins Another inmate of the same room named Jerry Suid. van leaped out of the front window, alighting with a crash on the balcony and rolling thence to the ground. He was immediately picked up and conveyed to the office and on the arrival of the ambulance was removed to the hospital. The neighbors were all this time doing all they could for the sufferers, and by twos and threes were receiving them into their dwellings. The few minutes between the sounding of the fire alarm and the arrival of the first engine seemed an age to these present, but when one steamer had arrived the others camin quick succession. In a few minutes after the firemen came four streams of water were thrown the flames and the work of extinguishing the fire was fairly commenced. Chief Engineer John W. Smith, of the Eastern division Fire Department, arrived at quarter past four o'clock and took charge of the force on duty. His first act was to send out a second alarm, to which en gines 11 and 12 and truck 6 responded; but, feering this was not enough for the emergency, Mr. Smith also telegraphed for engine No. 9 and truck No. 2, which gave him six full streams, under a suffici force of men to bring the fire under control by five

While giving the necessary orders to the firemen the Chief Engineer directed that all the inmates who were gathered in the west wing, be removed. This was autienary measure, for when Mr. Smith first arrived he did not anticipate such a successful issue in fighting the fire. The fire and have not shot of all some

munication between the two wings found that they had the flames under control, though at that moment the cupola was in a bright blaze, its beacon light calling the brothers of St. John's Academy to the scene of the fire. They reached the scene in time to be of the greatest assistance in removing many of the inmates to their own institution.

The deluge of water on the cupola extinguished the flames in time to preserve its charred framework entire, while the cross upon its summit remained unstained by smoke or fire. The omen was accepted by of happiness for the dead and success for the institution in the future. By the time the inmates who were gathered in the west wing had all been safely removed into the street and forwarded to places of safety the firemen had prevented the flames from doing much injury to the chapel, a main building, and as the floors fell the basement was soon filled by a mass of smouldering embers. Viewed from the ground in front it wa seen that the extreme eastern end of the building, 50 feet in depth and 25 feet wide, was completely gutted, diagram elsewhere given, the portion in black being totally destroyed and that dotted only partially. SCENES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

When once the neighbors were fully aware of the nature of the danger which threatened the Home they spared no efforts to render all the assistance in their limited power. No time was lost in donning unnecessary clothing, and many of the men appeared at the cene clad only in pantaloons and barefooted. One gentleman who early discovered the progress which the fire was making, provided himself with the dinger bell and rang an alarum through the neighborhood, which roused the deepest sleepers. The signal was significant of danger and a summons for assistance that even the women heard and regarded. The bulk of their assistance could only be devoted to assisting to places of shelter the more fortunate of the inmates, who, having escaped from immediate danger, stood perfectly dazed at the spectacle presented by the burning pile and horror-stricken at the shricks uttered by those beyond hope. Many of those so suddenly driven out of house and home could do nothing but mumble and mutter as they were led away for protection from the weather and sheltered in the houses thrown open to receive them-Others were removed only by force, so fascinated were they by the sight before them. The greater part had nly escaped with a minimum of clothing, and some had been so scorched and blistered that they were car

The bearing of the Little Sisters of the Poor during the trying scenes through which they passed elicited the highest praise from police, firemen and citizens, and all were impressed by the order and coolness that characterized their every movement. Rough men rushed hither and thither among the debris and wreck in efforts to baffle the apread of the flames or remove the dead, and at every step they met amid the smoke devoted Sisters bearing blankets or coverlids to cover the charred bodies of the dead. The Sisters followed closely in the wake of the police and firemen, and were unceasing in their labors to perform their whole duty. There was at this time no noise, no confusion, no rushing here and there. Every little service was rendered so silently and quietly that men, who had never before come in contact with the sisterhood, stood and looked on in surprise and admiration. THE DEATH OF CUMMINS.

One neighbor, named Donohue, fully appreciating the danger, secured a ladder as soon as he heard the alarm, and hurrying to the building essayed to save some of the inmates, who had made their escape to the roof and stood wildly screaming and wringing their hands. Suddenly there appeared in one of the windows of the top dorthat on the third floor, an old man whose shricks of "Save me! save me; I'm burning up! For the love of God help me!" were heard high above the screams of the others and the roar and crackle of the flames. The smoke was all about him, but now and then it cleared off sufficiently to reveal his figure and his bare gray head. Mr. Donohue fought the smoke and placed his ladder against the wail under the win-When the old man, who was afterward found to be Michael Cummins, saw the efforts to rescue him he endeavored to clamber out to clutch the ladder, which appeared as if in its progress upward it would reach to the window where he sat shricking. It was too short by nearly a dozen feet, and when Cummins saw this he uttered a shrick that horrified the few who had been attracted to the spot below. He was about to throw himself down in the hope of catching the ladder when Donohue ran up the rungs and shouted to him to get a sheet and lower himself. The man obeyed, and going back soon reappeared with a sheet, which he tremblingly made fast to the iron bed-stead near by. Reassured by Donohue's shouts of encouragement and direction he clutched this improvised rope, and swinging himself had almost reached its end when, in common with the spectators, he realized that the sheet extended less than half the distance between the window and the ladder and shouted to Cummins to drop and he would catch him. He attempted to obey, but in his nervous ness he had swung himself partially around, and letting go his hold on the sheet at the same instant the movement threw him out of the direct line to Donohue's arms, and as he tell he just grazed the side of the lad der and his rescuer's outstretched hands and shot down to the stone pavement of the area below. There he lay a quivering mass of flesh and broken bones, and a moment after when he was picked up he was dead.

SEARCHING POR THE DEAD. As soon as the flames were extinguished the men of Engines Nos. 13 and 16 and Trucks Nos. 4 and 6 were ordered to examine the ruins. They commenced their search on the lower floor, finding the remains of much burned. The party was then divided into two, one section going to the upper floors and the other to the basement. On the second floor two corpses were found. One seated in a chair, with his boots partially on, the right on the left foot and the left on the right, and it seemed as if he had been unable to rise from the chair, and Sister Frances said that he had been partially paralyzed. The other corpse was prone on Hanging to the beams of the third floor were two shrivelled and partially consumed bodies, confined between the beams and the cot beds. But the most horrible sight was on the third floor itself, or that portion which the fire had left. Nine bodies in various positions, denoting helplessness or unavailing efforts to escape, were revealed to the gaze of the horror struck firemen. One or two had nearly reached the windows, one had crawled underneath his bed, as if to get away from the smoke, while only one lay on his cot, so that every one must have had some consciousness of the dread disaster ere life left them. The dead were carefully picked up in blankets and conveyed to a little room in the basement adjoining the washroom.

While they were being removed the other section of firemen had been digging among the debris in the cellar, and had exhumed the bodies of three more in a horrible state of partial calcination. They, together with the other bodies and that of Cummins, were placed in the two rooms on the right and left of the wash room. This work accomplished and the fire totaily extinguished, Chief Smith and Fire Marshal Keady investigated the portion of the building destroyed, but could discover no other cause for the fire than a defective heater in the refectory under the smoking room. He then ordered the men to their quarters, and at noon the last engine moved away, eaving the building and ground to the hands of the police of the Ninth sub and Ninth precinct, who had een on duty since four o'clock.

THE SCENE IN THE BASEMENT. The scene in the basement of the building where the dead were placed in different apartments seemed to possess a peculiar fascination for the hundreds of visi ors who filed down the narrow stairs and past the ghastly rows of swollen, charred, blackened and half consumed bodies. For five hours, from seven o'clock in the morning until noon, bodies were being dis covered and as fast as discovered were taken to the rooms in the basement and completely covered from the scrutiny of curious bservers with bed covering. Some of the dead were fully dressed, some had on but a slight amount of In one room were laid in line the bodies of ten of the unfortunate victims in frightful and dis torted attitudes that too vividly recalled the horrors of their terrible fate. All the furniture had been removed from the apartment, which is ordinarily used as an eating room, and visitors had ample room to walk at either side and inspect the remains. This privilege was very generally exercised, not only by those who came in the sad hope of finding the remains of

quire how those poor, aged victims looked whom death came in whole troops and lostered over the pitiable and repulsive picture, moaning and awaying as if bewailthe immediate neighborhood, and no doubt they had become acquainted with the faces and the names of many of the inmates. Girls by the score, with children in their arms, passed along the row, eagerly clustering about a blackened face or shrivelled form, while the covering was temporarily removed by more courageous hands. Next to this room was kitchen and washing room, in which acluster of busy women-housewives of the neighborhoodwho generously volunteered to aid the Sisters in their listress, were briskly engaged washing and cleaning the soiled and blackened clothes and linen of the institution. Piles of bedclothing partially burned and tered everywhere about the floor. Still further to the east, in a little room that had evidently been used Among these was the body of Cummins, who had been killed in falling from the burning building. looked alone, of all the fifteen so far seen, natural in death. Two of the other bodies in this room were more than half consumed by the flames. Across a narrow passage way was a door opening into a sort of closet room, and in this was another body that showed no further signs of encountering the flames than a singeling of the white hairs and beard. The poor old man had all his clothes on and had, no doubt, lost his life while endeavoring to escape from the flames.

Another charred body was found with the hands firmly clasped upon the breast and the knees drawn up as in prayer. The poor man died with the words upon his

Occasionally among the spectators might be seen a sobbing woman or a man with grave and troubled countenance. But there were no scenes of violent emotion such as follow great calamities where the dead are readily recognized, and young and old are the victims. Here the inmates were in many instances dead to the outside world. Most of them had lived the full limit of their three score years and ten, and had passed away of their own accord from the busy world to a haven of rest just this side of the grave. Besides, if their friends were ever so much grieved they could not select from the great number of undistinguishable dead the one they mourned for. In the presence of the general horror individual grief seemed lost.

LOOKING FOR RELATIVES. At the door leading to the chapel a man stood with a list of the names of the seventy-five male inmates of the Home. On this list were checked the names of the saved, so that a momentary glance discovered whether those for whom friends and relatives inquired where lost or missing. Of course, a good deal of con fusion arose from the fact that many of the rescued who found shelter in neighboring houses remained temporarily concealed and were, for the time, as much lost to the authorities of the Home as if they had perished in the flames. It was curious to witness the perished in the flames. It was curious to witness the manner of some inquirers. One kindly-looking little woman, who called to ask for a friend that she had known for many years—a poor, solitary old man who, she said, had never married and had no relatives living. With visible anxiety she awaited the answer of the man who held the list. "He is alive," the man said who held the list, "and is now at St. John's College," The inquirer's suspense found relief in tears which flowed just as freely as if she had heard instead that the old man was among the missing.

the missing.
Among those who claimed to recognize deceased relatives were John T. Laudermann and a man named Kelly, Laudermann said he identified the face of his grandfather who of his own choice had entered the Home with his wife a few years before. Kelly recog-

nized his father.

One son, who came to the Home early in the fore

nized his father.

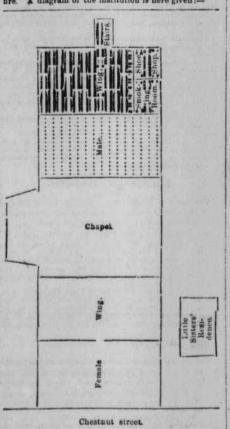
One son, who came to the Home early in the forenoon and made inquiries for his father, narrated a peculiar dream that disturbed the previous night's slumber. He dreamed, he said, that his father was burned in a terrible fire, and the first news that greeted his waking inoments was that of the fire at the Home. In trepidation he hurried to the scene of the disaster, and after an investigation of the matter found to his horror that his worst fears were realized and his singular dream proved but too true. One of the most APPECTIGS INCIDENTS
was witnessed by the writer. Late in the afternoon a consultation was had between soveral of the clergy of the Catholic Church, Coroner Nolan and Sister Mary would enter the basement and view the charred bodies she might be able to identify some of them from their stature or other peculiarities. The good Sister readily consented to the suggestion, and the party, accompapanied by a number of journalists repaired to the room of death. Dr. Simms began to remove the covering in which the bodies were wrapped, and the devoted Sister shrank not from the ordeal. When one or two bodies had been exposed a journalist who had made a carcul exammation of the remains, and knew that it was impossible for any one to identify any of the dead, gallantly came to the rescue of the Sister with the remark, "Sister, you have witnessed enough of horror for one day, I have examined all the bodies, and no one can possibly identity them. It is merely imposing a disagreeable duty upon you, and you had better retire." The suggestion, coming so genity from a journalist, had its effect, and the tired and uncomplaining Sister returned. able duly upon you, and you had better retire." The suggestion, coming so gently from a journalist, had its effect, and the tired and uncomplaining Sister retired. The incident had its effect upon the clergy, the reporters and the officials, who, with uncovered neads, silently retired without a further examination of the

ghastly corpses.

A woman whose eyes were red with weeping. A woman whose eyes were red with weeping, thoughtiessly took a little child into the presence of the dead, and as a bystander lifted the coverings regealing the blackened skull of what was once a man, the child shrank back exclaiming:—"Oh, manma, mamma, take me away, I can't look at roasted people!" Her words seemed to be taken to heart by more than one present, and the coverings were no more disturbed by that little knot of curiosity seeders.

One of the old men who had long been an inmate of the Home, while the tears rolled down his cheeks, said:—"I crawled out, and only wish I had time to tell the others, for its no use of keeping your head up when smoke's around."

DIAGRAM OF THE HOME The home is situated on the corner of Bushwick avenue and Chestnut street, and consists of a main building, used as a chapel, with two wings on either side. The west wing is occupied by the female inmates, and when the fire occurred there were housed in it 115 persons, all of whom are over sixty years of age. In the east wing were located, according to the statement of Sister Mary of the Apostle, seventy-three aged men. These wings consist of a basement, two stories and an attic. At the eastern end of the men's wing was a stairs built of wood, on the outside of the building, extending from the ground to the upper floor, A door from each floor opened into this stairway, so easily escape by this means of exit, unless cut off by fire. A diagram of the institution is here given :-



By a reference to the diagram it will be seen that a wall separates the male wing in the centre. This wall is of brick, about a foot thick. The basement of the east end of the wing is used as a store room; the first oor is divided into three rooms. The front portion of it being used as a smoking room and a room for the repairing of shoes. The balance of the floor was ocupled by cots for the use of the inmates. The first floor of the west end of the male department was used

strangers, whose morbid curiosity drove them to in- | lodged on the two floors above the dining room and the eastern section. Doors open through the wall on every story, so that in case of sudden panic or fire the inmates of the western section could be discharged into the eastern section of the male department, and from the eastern section to the outer stairs, which were reached as above stated by doors leading from each story. The only connection between the men's department and the female wing is by a door over the front of the chapel on the second story. This door is usually kept locked, and is only used by the Little Sisters as a means of reaching the male dormitory without exposing themselves in inclement weather by the means of ingress from the pinzza. The chapel and the wings are of brick. The residence of the Sis ters in charge is a two story wooden structure, detached from the main building. On the Bushwick avenue side of the institution is a large yard, about 100 by 300 feet, inclosed by a high board feace.

THE DEAD.

The following is a list of the dead, as obtained from

the records of the sisters :-Michael Reiley, aged ninety-three years. Theodore Chagnot, aged seventy-five years. James Ryan, aged seventy-six years. George Donnolly, aged sixty nine years. Frederick Elechard, aged seventy-two years. James Connolly, aged seventy-one years. Daniel Gorman, aged seventy-six years. John Cavanagh, aged seventy-two years. Peter Keliy, aged seventy-five years. Roger Farrell, aged seventy-one years. Peter Hayes, aged seventy-nine years. Patrick Healy, aged seventy-two years. Conrad Landemann, aged eighty-seven years. Michael Cummings, aged seventy-eight years. Jerry Sullivan, aged seventy years.

These are known to be among the nineteen dead bodies recovered. The Sisters report that the following persons are John Motherhoff. Michael Feefe.

Henry Bennotte, John Barroden Patrick Conarty. Martin Trune, James Meon, John Rigney. John Coly, Matthew Brennan. Two Germans (names unknown.)

Total missing, 13. All the other inmates of the male wing have been accounted for. The impression seems to prevail among officials who yesterday visited the ruins that there are still more bodies buried under the debris that can only be recovered by a more thorough search. In this opinion Coroner Nolan acquies, and to-day he will likely order a sufficient force of men at work to make the search complete.

THE CORONER'S JURY. About poon Coroners Nolan and Simms appeared at the scene of the horror, and after a brief consultation with Acting Captain Dunn and a cursory examination of the bodies they retired and scoured the neighborhood in search of a jury. Within half an hour they returned and the following gentlemen were empar elled and sworn :-

George B. McGrath, No. 64 Grand street. N. Titemore, No. 413 Adelphi street. John Lambert, No. 12 De Kalb place. Albert Robinson, No. 13 De Kalb place, Patrick Majone, No. 11 De Kalb place. S. H. Hastings, No. 634 Kosciusko placa. Daniel Scott, No. 12 Patchen avenue. Frederic Herr, No. 778 Broadway. A. B. Du Puy, No. 222 Second street. Julius Breitmeyer, No. 1,114 De Kaib avenue.

Thomas Cutts, No. 884 Broadway, and Hugh O'Brien, corner of Evergreen avenue and

Escorted by Coroner Nolan, who will have charge of the inquest, the jury proceeded to the basement under the female wing of the building and viewed the remains. Coroner Simms removing the blankets in which the charred remains were wrapped, the better to of the bodies. But one of the bodies was in a condition to be recognized. Coroner Nolan held a consultation with the jury, and it was finally agreed to begin the inquest at the Brooklyn Morgue, corner of Ray. mond and Willoughby streets, at ten o'clock on next

THE PUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. After the jury had viewed the bodies and had been discharged, the Coroner gave permits to Mr. F. Tracy, of Kent avenue, who has had charge of Interments them for burial. Mr. Tracy stated that a requiem m for the repose of the souls of the victims will be had at St. John's chapel at nine A. M. to-day, and all bodies not claimed by friends before noon will be removed and interred in the Flatbush Roman Catholic Cemetery where the Little Sisters of the Poor have a plot.

LOSSES AND INSURANCES.

The Little Sisters of the Poor first got possession of the frame building in which they live, near the corner of Bushwick avenue, about 1866 or 1865. It had previously been occupied as a residence by Mr. Carmavailo, once quite prominent in Brooklyn politics. The home they built in two sections. The first section was put up in 1867 at a cost of about \$30,000, and the other wing, now partially destroyed, was finished in 1870, at an additional cost of about the same amount. The en-

wing, now partially desired an additional cost of about the same amount. The entre insurance on the building was \$30,000, distributed among the following companies:

Continental of New York. \$7,500

Nassau of Brooklyn. 7,500

Pacific of New York 8,000

Lennox 5,000

Lennox 5,000

PIRE MARSHAL READY'S INVESTIGATION.

Early in the day Fire Marshal Kendy appeared at the

Home and opened an investigation into the cause of
the are. At this time the Little Sisters were so busily engaged in caring for the removal of the decreped and infirm under their charge, and so utterly exhausted by the latters and excitement of the morning that few were

the labors and excitement of the morning that few were in a condition to give an notelligible account of their experiences. He, however, took the testimony of two of the sisters as lollows:—
Matida Laisne sworn, says:—I am the Assistant Mother (Mary of the Aposites), in charge of the House for the Agod (Little Sisters of the Poor), corner Bushwick avenue and Chestnut streets; we had 183 mmates and fifteen sisters and six postulates in the institution last-evening, supported entirely by charity; the building is heated by furnaces and Baltimore heaters; about hall-past three A. M. I discovered fire in the east wing of the building, a brick building three stories high; there were seventy-three old men in this wing, and two sisters; I first saw the fire by the window on the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in my room in the south wing of the building; I was in the building is closed up and all reture at nine P. M.; the fires were not unusnatily large last evening; this wing was erected four years ago, and cost \$35,000 with the chape; It was insured in the Nassau, Lennox, Lafay-otte, Mechanics and Guardian for \$15,000 each in two and \$5,000 each in the others.

Q. Do you know of your own knowledge how the fire commenced? A. I only know what I have heard from the other sisters; we had a cellar under the basement and kept coal there; the kitchen was over the cellar; the ashes were kept outside the building; I do not think the fire occurred from that; the old men smoked in a small room near the diming room in cold weather; I saw them smoking outside on the gailery yesterday.

Whilamina Betz (Sister Maxellande) sworn, says:—I am one of the cliff line is deprined

could get in from the outside to make a fire; I do not know how the fire occurred.

POLICE STATEMENTS.

Sergeant Buckhoiz, of the Ninth sub-precinct, states that the alarm was sounded at five minutes past four A. M. "I was on reserve at the time and when I reached the fire the first floor was burning. The flames shooting out of the windows made it impossible to effect an earrance and by the time the truck arrived with fadders to reach the upper windows they were also filled with flames. Two old men who had climbed out on the roof stood there orying for help. The ladders we had were very short, but by placing one close up to the wall the men were rescued. They were unable to help themselves where they stood. The excited men below called to them to hang their legs over the caves of the roof. In this position the fireman who ascended the ladder carried them one after the other down the ladder and into the arms of his companions waiting below. Several others were rescued from the roof by Sergeant Healey and his men before I arrived. Just as Four truck arrived and the Bremen were placing the lander against the wall, as old man appeared at a hard

from a second story window, and was badly bruised and internally injured.

The women were steeping in the west wing of the building, and we rushed in there and aroused them as fast as we could. There was great conjusion among them for a while, but they were queted as soon as possible, and took refuge in the building occupied by the Sisters. The firemen and policemen worked as hard as i ever saw them, and carried out as much furniture, bedding, &c., as possible. The Sisters themselves, despite my efforts to persuate them to leave that part of the work to the men, took a hand at saving whatever they could and worked incosantly. I have been a poticeman and a fireman for a good many years, but I never saw such a sight in my life. The fire burned rapidly and the smoke was dense and blinding. I saw Assistant Engineer Smith rush into a volume of flames in scarch of some one, and how he came out alive is a wonder to me. With proper means of escape it would have been aimost impossible for more to have been rescued, for they were mostly old and helpless men, who could do little without assistance. I do not think many of them were burned to death. The smoke was so dense that those above must have been suffocated before the fire reached them."

Mr. Connolly, occupant of a cottage on Stockholm

were burned to death. The smoke was so dense that those above must have been suffocated before the fire reached them.

STATEMENT OF A NEIGHBOR.

Mr. Connolly, occupant of a cottage on Stockholm street, immediately facing the end of the wing in which the fire took place, said to a Herald reporter.—"Between three and four o'clock I was awakened by my sister-in law with the cry that the Home was on fire. I rushed to the window and saw the flames coming out of the lower window, on the left hand side, and reaching to the woodwork outside of the Home. I dressed rapidly and went out. I met several men in the street and tood thom to do the best they could, while I ran to the police station and gave the alarm. On my return the whole wall lacing my house was a mass of flames. The versuda, which extends half way round this side, was burning too, and the wooden bay windows, extending up and out from the centre of the wall, disappeared like chaff. While I was there an old man made his appearance at one of the lower windows. With the aid of a short ladder we rescued him, and I have him in my house now. He is very old and paralyzed. His name is James Cox. His friends, who were hunting for him, were in great distress, fearing he had perished. They finally found him at my house, and went hearly craxy for joy when they saw him.

ENGINKER SMITE'S STATEMENT.

Assistant Engineer Smith made a statement substantially to the following effect:—"When I got to the lire, about five minutes after the alarm had been sounded, I found everything about the place in the utmost containing and several people were seen on the roof. As soon as I heard that a number of people were still within the walls of the burning edifice! lost no time in sounding a second fire alarm. To this we soon got a speedy reply and went to work at once with the engineer. Owing to the fact that the hydrants were placed a good way apart, some short time was lost before the hose could be joined and connocted. It took us something like half an hour to

us something like half an hour to

IMAT THE FLAMES DOWN

in such a way that they could be controlled. Having
done this, the firemen instantly set to work to search
for the persons who were counted among the missing,
but on account of the great excitement and confusion
which at that moment pervailed around the scene it
was impossible for us to tell the number of those who
were missing, or if any were really missing at all. A
few minutes sufficed to reveal the horrible fact to my
men that two dead bodies were lying in the bedroom on the lower floor. These two unfortunate persons lay on the beds; they men that two dead bodies were lying in the bedroom on the lower floor. These two unfortunate persons lay on the beds; they
were half consumed, and so much charred
and disfigured as to be beyond all
possible recognition. The men placed these ghastly
remains in blankets and carried them into the
basement of the west wing of the building, placing
them there in the washroom. Further search revealed
the nect that three more dead bodies lay in the cellar,
immediately under the bedroom where the other two
bodies had been found. The three victims discovered
in the cellar had been precipitated into it at the moment when the flooring gave way, and they were
partially covered with rubbish and debris which had
failen on them. The firemen then ascended to the
second floor, and here found two more bodies, partially dressed; a circumstance which showed that the
ill-fated men had been endeavoring to make their escape at the time when they were overtaken and suffocated by the volumes of smoke and flame which must
have filled the room and barred their exit. On the top
floor

cated by the volumes of smoke and flame which must have filled the room and barred their exit. On the top floor

THE MOST HORRID SPECTACLE

met the eyes of the men who first penetrated there. Here we saw no less than nine dead bodies, the most of whom were burned almost to a crisp. It was impossible to recognize them. This room contained eighteen beds, and if all of them were occupied, it is a wonder to me how any of the occupants managed to effect their escape, for all the avenues of exit were cut off very soon after the flames broke out. These bodies were all taken to the washroom, where, previously, the first two that had been discovered were laid. The remains were all placed side by side along with the first two bodies, the whole of them being covered with a blanket. Although it is at this moment an extremely difficult thing to say just how the fire originated, my opinion is that it must have been caused by some defect in the heating apparatus. It is evident that the flames broke out in the basement, or on the first floor of the east wing, and then extended with tremendous rapidity to the upper stories of the building. During the entire course of my experience I have never before known the firemen to work with greater energy or more effectively; and yet, in spite of all their endeavors, the fire must have reached the westwing had it not been for the brick wall in the centre of the building which opposed an effective obstacle to its further progress."

STATEMENT OF AN INMATE.

Among the unmatch who made good their escape before the fire had enveloped the upper stories was an old man named Seiter, who, when he had recovered from the temporary stupefaction occasioned by his fright, betook himself to No. I? engue house. He rambles alittle in telling his story, but of the accuracy of the essential points of it he seems perfectly satisfied. "After leaving the institution," said the old man, "I hurried along the safreet as fast as I could. The lower part of the house was then covered with smoke, and I could se

as I went, and when I reached the engine house I cried out, "Hurry up, for God's sake, the Home is burning to the ground," I was so excited that they did not understand me at first, but when I rejeated it they asked me where the Home for the Aged was, and said they knew no such place. I told them and urged them to make haste, but they hesitated, and I think they did not believe me at first. Before long, however, the fire beli began to ring and they then hurried off.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

One of the curious instances of escape from the flames was that of a short, stolid old man, who seemed to preserve considerable coolness in the midst of the

names was that of a Short, stold old man, who seemed to preserve considerable coolness in the midst of the harrowing scene. He told the reporter that he was sound asleep when the fire broke out, and was only awakened by the noise the inmates of his dormitory made in flying from their beds.

"When I got up I pulled on my clothes as quick as I

could and groped my way toward the door; but the room was so miled with smoke and there was so much excitement that I did not know where to turn. Then the fire began to burn in through the floor and the whole room became pitch black. Nearly every one was

excitement that I did not know where to turn. Then the fire began to burn in through the floor and the whole from became pitch black. Nearly every one was rushing about, shouting, praying and waiting. Some oid men who were lame and feebie were hardly able to stir from their beds, and in the confusion they did not know what to do. I groped my way about as best I could, half choked by the smoke and heat, until I stumbled against the window. It was open, and I leaned out of it and felt shout me for something to catch hold of. The roof hangs down low here, and it struck me that I might reach it. As I felt about me my hand touched the rod running up against the building. I caught it with one hand, and, easing my body against the window stone work. I climbed up on the roof, from which I was taken when the engines came."

John Murray, a young man employed in a livery stable in the neighborhood, was among the first to reach the scene of the conflagration, and in conversation with the roportor he said.—'This morning I awoke about a quarter past three o'clock, and on giancing out of the window I noticed a rod glare of tight upon the houses opposite. I could not imagine what caused it at first, till it suddenly struck me that there must be a fire in the neighborhood. I hurried out of doors, and on reaching the corner saw the flatmes bursting out of the lower floors of the Home for the Aged. Whea I reached the ire I met a truckman engaged in the hose belonging to that bunding, and had just got it uncolled when I saw it was too short to reach the Bre. We then ran over to a factory where a hose was stowed, but before we had secured it we heard the clatter of an engine coming along, so we hurried back to assist the firemen. When I reached the building the upper stories were burning too. A dense mass of smoke rolled from the windows and hindered us from noticing any one that appeared at them for a while suspended from a window sill, but before my hing could be done to relieve him his hold loosened and he fell to the ground dyi

Mary of the Apostles (Superioress); Mary of St. Peter (Mother, at present in New Orleans); Sisters Dougherty, Gregory, Mary Teresa, Mary Fanty, Gozsague Mary, Maxellande, Angel Joseph, Carolina, Alphouse, Mary Augustine, Josephine, Columbia, Victoria and St. Damien.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.

Catharine Campbell, a native of Tyrone county, Ireland, died at the Almshouse, on Blackwell's Island, on the 6in inst., at the extreme age of 112 years. The deceased was admirted to the Hospital in 1867. Up to within a short time before her death she rotated her faculties a most unimpaired. Her interment will take CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED IN SES-SION-A SCENE OF EXCITEMENT AND THE HALL CLEARED BY SOLDIERS-THE PANAMA BAILWAY COMPANY AND THE NEW LOAN.

PANAMA, Feb. 26, 1876. The National Congress convened at Bogota on the 1st inst. The President's Message, largely devoted to the defence of the course of the government, has been pub-

Two rival deputations from the States of Panama and Cundinamarca put in their appearance for seats in the Nunez candidature for the Presidency of the Republic and the other is for the Parra candidature. Congress

and the other is for the Parrs candidature. Congress decided that both deputations should withdraw until their credenthis be duly considered and their respective validity recognized.

Soldings called in.

A scene of excitement followed among the members and among the spectators at the bar of the House of Répresentatives. The national troops were called in to clear the House.

CITIENS ALARM.

Up to the 5th inst. neither of the rival deputations had been admitted to seats in the House. The excitement in the city was intense, and a general war is the Republic is apprehended. Both factions, that for Nunce and that for Parra lay claim to a majority is votes, in strength and in legitimacy.

In the Senate there was more calmiess. A conservative was elected President of this body.

A proposition of Senator General Mosquera for an amnesty for all political offences up to the Slat of December, 1875, was rejected.

A MALIGNANT POLITICIAN.

One Gutierrez, a rebel candidate for the Governorship of Condinamarca, was in arms. He had defeated a company of the national troops and was marching on to Bogota.

The Panama Government.

THE PANAMA GOVERNMENT The present government of Panama has been recog-nized by that of the Union as the legitimate govern-ment.

Colonel G. M. Totten has proceeded to Bogota to arrange the \$3,000,000 loan, which the Panama Railroad Company offered to raise in England for the Colombian government.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Diet of Plenipotentiaries, to consider the confederation project, was opened formally on the 20th of January by the President of Guatemala amid a large of the Central American war that was threatened have passed. In Costa Rica the idea of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company taking on hand and completing the Costa Rican Railroad is looked upon as a canard.

A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN PERU BY PIE-ROLA PRODUCES A GENERAL ALARM-THE FINANCIAL CONDITION-A CRISIS IN LIMA-OBLIGATIONS ABBOAD. LINA. Feb. 13, 1876.

Owing to intelligence received here from the Consular agent in Valparaiso to the effect that Don Nicolas de Pierola had left that port for Peruvian soil and bent on hostile purposes, the government found itself obliged a few days since to send the gunboat Pilcomayo to southern waters, where she is ordered to cruise incessantly along that portion of the coast where it is thought probable Pierola may disembark. The gun boat is new, very fast and has a couple of companies of picked infantrymen on board, who will make short work of the enterprising visitor if they find him affoat; but should be happen to effect a landing and succeed in reaching his objective point-Arequipa-we will be again plunged into all the worries and disasters of a revolution, and a revolution which, in all probability, would prove fatal to the present administration. HIS MEANS OF ATTACK.
Prerola's flotilia, composed of a little side-wheel

steamer and two small schooners, was still in Vaiparaiso at last report, possibly awaiting news from the chief as to the most favorable point for discharging the cargoes of arms and ammunition. THE PEOPLE IN ACTUAL DEPRESSION

Still, such is the teeling of depression in Lima regarding commercial and financial affairs, that little interest is manifested in the political outlook. Business is becoming duller every day, the only activity nothriving trade out of their customers. American double eagles, which were worth \$22 in paper four months ago, now sell for \$48. Silver money is readily months ago, now sell for \$48. Silver money is readily disposed of at sixty per cent premium. Bar silver is worth fifteen hard dollars the mark, and the price of provisions, dry goods, &c., is steadily on the rise. Merchants—at least those of the wholesale houses—refuse to dispose of their goods, as there are no manner of remitting to their principals in Europe. Exchange is now at thirty-three pence per hard dollar, while two months since bills on London were obtainable at lorty-three pence.

months since bills on London were obtainable at lorty-three pence.

A SILVER STREAK.

Only one little gleam of light is visible on this dark horizon—and that comes from Iquique. The government has been offered many of the principal nitrate manufacturing establishments for purchase, in accordance with the Expropriation law; these, if purchased must be paid for in bonds redeemable at two years sight, or less. The government will mortgage their lands and their production to some house abroad, which will, it is hoped, not only advance the funds necessary to cover the bonds, but also open a credit to the Treasury on account of the nitrate to be exported. If this is, done, then the government would be enabled to pay off part, at least, of its heavy debt to the banks in bills against such a credit; exchange would soon rule at a favorable rate; goods consigned from Europe would be promptly paid for, and the whole situation undergo at transformation for the better.

THE GUANO SUPPLY.

A discovery of 90,000 tons of guano has been made near Casma, a town 200 miles north of Callao. The deposit is situate on the mainland, easy of access, and the fertitizer is said to be of excellent quality. This will add to the national wealth some two million and a half money. The Messrs, Droyfus are busily engaged in exporting the balance of the guano which they bought in 1869, and also that which they have to receive in payment of heavy advances made to the Exchequer. Three hundred vessels are now loading at Patilios, Lobos, Pabelion de Pica and Independencia Bay. These will carry of 500,000 tons or more.

Patilios, Lobos, Pabelion de Pica and Independencia Bay. These will carry off 500,000 tons or more. THE FOREIGN ENDERGLERS.

No further steps have been taken toward alleviating the condition of the foreign bondholders; in fact, the government appear to be awaiting the result of the conferences which were to be held in London by those ill-treated capitalists, and from which some definitive arrangement or proposition for arrangement is hoped. THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC REPRINENTATION.

Americans here regard with a good deal of discontent the proposed action of Congress reducing the Legation in Lima to a third rate consulate, and appointing one Minister from the United States to all the republics of the west coast. The number of United States citizens in Peru is considerable—probably in all 2,500—and many are engaged in business. These should certainly be protected in such an insecure country as Peru is, politically speaking, by direct representation, and not by a consul who is obliged to consult the Department of State at Washington if an outlay of \$14 is necessary for ret tape or scaling wax.

LABOR SUPPLY FOR PERU.

Arrangements have been made for a large importation of Chinamen into Peru.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL

VISITING COMMITTEE FOR BELLEVUE AND OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS, No. 52 East Twennieth Street, New York, Feb. 28, 1876. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

This committee has much pleasure in stating that the nefficient orderlies at Bellevue Hospital, to whom in the HERALD of February, have been removed and their places supplied by competent men, who perform their duties satisfactorily. In this connection we would add that the Bellevue Local Visiting Committee composed of forty members, is divided into five sub mittees, according to the divisions of the hospital, Each visitor visits her ward weekly and reports monthly to the chairman of her committee, who presents a full report of the state of the wards in her division at the monthly meeting. If in the opinion of the Executive Committee there are any statements which should require immediate attention by the Board of Charlitea and Correction a communication is addrossed to that Board. At the end of the year, an annual report, which is an abstract of all the monthly reports, is prepared by the secretary, revised by the Executive Committee, and the facts therein stated verified by the Executive Committee, and the facts therein stated verified by the interest of inspection. This report is submitted to the General Committee at the annual meeting for approval and then presented to the State Charities Aid Association. The work is, therefore, performed most conscientiously; still abuses, which existing during the earlier, part of the year and, in fact, up to the last of January, may be rectified during February, while the report is in press. This was the case in reference to the last drunken orderly, who was discharged February 17, and as the men holding these posts are now sober and faithful the committee are unwilling to wait until another vear to do them justice and, therefore, give this testimony in their behalf.

R. Buyler, Socretary.

Mrs. E. L. YOUMANS, sents a full report of the state of the wards in her

R. BUYLER, Socretary,
Mrs. E. L. YOUMANS,
Mrs. P. M. CLAPP,
Mrs. W. CHURCHILL,
Mrs. W. F. SMITH,
Miss WISNER,

A RUNAWAY TEAM.

As Mr. B. F. Wing was driving on Seventh avenua yesterday afternoon his horse took fright and ran into a carriage occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Gyles, of No. 112